

REMARKS

In light of the amendments to the application noted above, early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

By this continuation application Applicant presents amended claims 20, 21, 27, 28, 32 and 33 and originally presented claims 22-26, 29-31 and 34-37. Applicant submits that these amended claims present no new matter and are allowable over the prior art of record in parent application Serial No. 09/309,412.

At paragraphs 15-28 of the Office Action dated September 12, 2003 issued in parent application Serial No. 09/309,412, the Examiner rejected claims 20-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Aziz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,548,646). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant has amended independent claims 20 and 32 to more particularly point out the claimed invention, notably that the data is first encapsulated, thereafter the encapsulated data is encrypted, and finally, the encrypted data is once again encapsulated using a different protocol from the first encapsulation. Support for this amendment is shown in Figures 7A-7G, and the text describing these figures in the specification as originally filed at page 24, line 13 – page 29, line 22.

Applicant submits that Aziz et al. fails to depict the encapsulation/encryption/encapsulation sequence as set forth in the independent claims. Rather, Aziz et al. merely shows a single encapsulation and a single encryption sequence.

Therefore, because the Aziz et al. reference relied upon by the Examiner fails to depict the invention as set forth in independent claims 20 and 32, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn. Furthermore, dependent claims

21-31 and 33-37 depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 20 and 32. These claims were therefore allowable for this reason alone, and additionally as presenting independently, patentable combinations in and of their own right. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) similarly be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

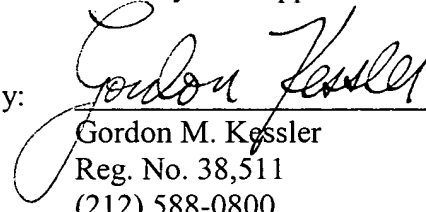
Applicant has made a diligent effort to place claims 20-37 in condition for allowance, and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner is unable to issue a Notice of Allowance regarding these claims, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney in order to discuss any further outstanding issues.

Early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested..

Respectfully submitted,

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